

No. 93-1456

Supreme Court, U.S.

FILED

MAY 23 1994

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**IN THE
Supreme Court of the United States**

OCTOBER TERM, 1993

U.S. TERM LIMITS, INC., *et al.*,
v. *Petitioners,*

RAY THORNTON, *et al.*,
Respondents.

On Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the
Supreme Court of Arkansas

BRIEF FOR THE STATE RESPONDENT

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QUESTION PRESENTED

Amendment 73 to the Arkansas Constitution restricts access to the ballot for certain incumbent candidates for the offices of United States Representative and Senator. Amendment 73 provides that a person who has been elected to three or more terms as a member of the United States House of Representatives, or to two or more terms as a member of the United States Senate, cannot thereafter have his or her name placed on the ballot for that office, although a candidate may still be elected through a write-in campaign. The question presented by this case is the following:

Whether a state has the power under the Elections Clause of the Constitution, Art. I, § 4, Cl. 1, to restrict an incumbent candidate's access to the ballot in such a manner, or whether the Qualifications Clauses of the Constitution, Art. I, § 2, Cl. 2, and § 3, Cl. 3, prohibit a state from imposing such a ballot access restriction.



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BRIEF FOR THE STATE RESPONDENT

This case involves the constitutionality of a state election law restricting access to the ballot. As relevant here, Amendment 73 to the Arkansas Constitution provides that a person who has been elected to three or more terms as a member of the United States House of Representatives, or to two or more terms as a member of the United States Senate, cannot thereafter have his or her name placed on the ballot for that office, although a candidate may still be elected through a write-in campaign. Amendment 73 rests on the belief, as stated in its preamble, that "elected officials who remain in office too long become preoccupied with reelection and ignore their duties as representatives of the people." The Amend-

ment was designed to rectify the deleterious effects of "[e]ntrenched incumbency," which have included "reduced voter participation" and "an electoral system that is less free, less competitive, and less representative" than the one adopted by the Framers. The question presented by this case is whether a state has the power under the Elections Clause of the Constitution, Art. I, § 4, Cl. 1, to remedy those ills through Amendment 73, or whether the Qualifications Clauses of the Constitution, Art. I, § 2, Cl. 2, and § 3, Cl. 3, prohibit Arkansas from pursuing such corrective action.

The Attorney General of Arkansas, on behalf of the State of Arkansas, has filed a petition for a writ of certiorari, No. 93-1828 (filed May 16, 1994), seeking review of the judgment of the Supreme Court of Arkansas in this case. For the reasons given in that petition, the judgment below warrants review by this Court. If the Court grants the petition in this case, it should also grant the petition in No. 93-1828. In fact, because only the State of Arkansas has standing under Article III to defend the constitutionality of one of its laws, *Diamond v. Charles*, 476 U.S. 54, 64-71 (1986), the Court either should grant only the petition in No. 93-1828 or should grant both petitions and consolidate them.

Respectfully submitted,

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